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CONTINUATION 1-11.
OF THE
NARRATIVE
OF
ACADEMICAL PROCEEDINGS,

Relative to the Proposal for the Establishment of
ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE;

With Observations upon the Conduct of the Committee,
appointed by Grace of the Senate on the 5th of July, 1773.

BY THE K.
Rev. JOHN JEBB, M. A.
LATE FELLOW OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE.

CAMBRIDGE,
Printed for FLETCHER and HODSON; and sold by
S. CROWDER, in Pater-noster-Row, London.

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OF THE
NARRATIVE
OF
ACADEMICAL PROCEEDINGS

Relative to the Progress of the Institution of
ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS



IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
With Observations upon the Conduct of the Committee
appointed by Grace of the Senate on the 20th of July, 1773.

BY THE
Rev. JOHN JERRARD, M.A.
LATE FELLOW OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE.

CAMBRIDGE
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J. Cresswell, at the Golden Rule, in St. Dunstons Church-yard.

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ACADEMICAL PROCEEDINGS,
Relative to the Proposal for the Establishment of
ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE obligation I laid myself under to the Public to propose a Succession of Graces to the Caput, until the point of the Expediency of Annual Examinations should be statutably determined by a Vote of our Body, may possibly, at first, appear to be dissolved by the Resolution of a Committee, to which the Senate had delegated its Authority. But as there is reason to suppose that every Person, who attentively considers the words of the Grace under which the Committee acted, will adjudge its Resolution, passed upon the 21st of October, to be utterly unformal; it is probable that I shall be reduced to the necessity of again proposing my Question to the Legislature of our Corporation; and, in such a case, it is humbly hoped, that it may at length be permitted

ted to receive, in that respectable Assembly, a fair and constitutional Decision.

In the mean time I shall think it my duty, perpetually, as new matter arises, to continue the Narrative of our Academical Proceedings upon this Subject. It is a Subject of Public Concernment, and therefore the Public have an unquestionable Claim to Information, with respect to every material Circumstance that relates to it.

I proposed my third Grace to the Caput upon the twelfth of May. In which as may be seen from my Postscript, I had selected an unexceptionable Syndicate for the purpose of drawing up a Plan for the Execution of my Project. Upon the 25th of June I retired into the Country, with an intention of renewing my application to the Caput, in the course of the subsequent Term.

Before I proceed in my narrative of what followed, it may not be improper to observe, that Dr. Powell, upon the twelfth of May, proposed a Question to some Person or Persons in the Caput, whether it might not be adviseable to pass a Grace to prevent me from offering any more Graces relative to the Establishment of annual Examinations. But a doubt being raised by one of the Gentlemen then present, whether such a Grace would be well received by the two Houses, he thought it most prudent to change the Subject of Discourse. If any doubts should arise concerning the
Authen-

Authenticity of this fact, I must refer to a paper in the hands of the late Vice Chancellor, wherein Dr. Powell himself confirms the truth of what I have now asserted by the Subscription of his Hand.

Upon the fifth of July the following Grace was proposed to the Senate by the Vice Chancellor, which passed the Caput and both Houses without a Division.

CUM Reipublicæ nostræ nonnullis interesse videatur, Publicum quotannis totius Juventutis Academicæ Examen institui; idque ipsi publicè nos et obnixè exposcant et efflagitent;---

Ne rem tam speciosam aut neglectui prorsus habuisse, aut tam novam, tantique momenti temerè nimis et inconsultò arripuisse Academiae vitio vertatur;---

PLACEAT VOBIS ut omnes Collegiorum omnium Præfecti, tres Regii Professores in Theologiâ, Jure Civili, et Medicinâ, seniores duo e Collegiis

Sanctæ Trinitatis et Divi Joannis Tutores, et senior quisque ex omni alio Collegio Tutor, sint Syndici vestri, qui convocante Procancellario conveniant, collatisque inter se consiliis deliberent et dijudicent, an fieri omnino possit ut istiusmodi Examinations commodè habeantur—an ut habeantur expediat—quo modo, quo loco, quo tempore, quibus Præsidibus, quibus Examinantibus, commodissime et ad uberrimum in bonis omnibus literis profectum utilissime haberi possunt; Quicquid denique iis, vel Procancellario, et majori eorum parti visum fuerit, in scripta digestum referant, et die primo Januarii proxime insequentis apud Procancellarium deponant, cum ipso protinus Cancellario communicandum, vestrisque ita demum suffragiis legitime atque ordine sancendum.

I received the Information of the passing of this Grace with the sincerest Satisfaction. For, although
it

it was my private opinion that every Member of the Senate was able to judge of the practicability and expediency of the measure proposed—although I was fully persuaded that the Gentlemen, named in my Graces, would have acquitted themselves with credit, had the formation of a Plan been committed to their care; yet I esteemed the unanimous approbation of the Vice Chancellor's Grace as a declaration of the Senate's favourable disposition to the proposed Institution; and flattered myself that the Committee, named by the Vice Chancellor, would have decided in favour of the practicability and expediency of the Measure, and afterwards have drawn up such a Plan for the Execution, as might have reflected Honour upon the University and themselves.

It was naturally to be expected, as the terms of the Grace did not require, that the Chancellor should be acquainted with the Resolutions of the Committee till the first day of the ensuing January, that the decision of the main Question would not have taken place till after the division of the present term, which happens on or about the 13th of November: this being the time, when, on account of Lectures, the presence of the Tutors is rendered indispensable. The Committee however was convoked upon the 21st of October; and the Members, who attended, finally decided the first Question in the negative on that day. The Debate, according to the best Information I can collect, lasted something more than half an hour. At length, the Votes being taken by secret Scrutiny, fourteen appeared to be against the Institution, and nine in its favour.

The process was as follows; The Question concerning the Practicability of the proposed Institution was written upon a sheet of Paper, and laid upon a Table, placed in the middle of the Room. The words, in which it was expressed, were taken from the Grace, viz. *an fieri omnino possit ut istiusmodi Examinationes commodè habeantur*. Immediately under the Question were drawn two Lines, with the words PLACET and NON PLACET at their Extremities. The Company sat in different parts of the Room at a distance from the Table. When the Voting began, the Junior Tutor approached the Table, made a scratch upon one of these Lines, and then retired to his place. His Example was followed by the rest of the Gentlemen in their order, till the whole number of Persons present, consisting of three and twenty, had given their Suffrages.

I hope I shall not be suspected of a disposition to cavil, if I say, that some material Informalities appear in the Conduct of the Committee upon this Occasion. The words, *Quicquid denique iis, vel Procancellario, et majori EORUM parti visum fuerit*, seem to require, that every Resolution should appear to be the opinion of an absolute Majority of those Persons who were named in the Committee; i. e. the opinion of at least nineteen of its Members; the whole number of Persons named being thirty six. Whereas it is confessed on all sides that only fourteen voted against the Practicability of the Institution. The word EORUM plainly refers to ALL the Persons named in the Grace. If nothing more was intended by the Gentleman who proposed this Grace,

Grace, than that the Presence of a Majority of the whole number, with the Vice Chancellor at their Head, should be necessary in order to proceed to business, he would, no doubt, in compliance with the customary form, have expressed himself as follows: PLACEAT VOBIS *ut omnes Collegiorum omnium Præfetti, tres Regii Professores in Theologiâ, Jure Civili, et Medicinâ, seniores duo e Collegiis Sanctæ Trinitatis et Divi Joannis Tutores, et senior quisque ex omni alio Collegio Tutor, VEL EORUM NOVENDECIM, QUORUM UNUS SEMPER SIT DOMINUS PROCANCELLARIUS, sint Syndici vestri, &c.* A slight Inspection into our Grace Books will, I trust, convince the Reader of the Reasonableness of this Remark.

But this reasoning may perhaps appear to be invalidated by urging, that, according to this Interpretation, the Vice Chancellor would have a negative in every Question debated by the Committee, and it may be contended, that it is absurd to suppose it to be the wish of the late Vice Chancellor, that such unconscionable Powers should be conceded by the Grace. The History however of the concomitant Circumstances is sufficient to convince the most incredulous, that such Confidence was intended to be reposed in the Vice Chancellor. The actions of men are frequently guided by an Influence not discernible by themselves; and I believe it is a pretty general persuasion that in this, as well as other Instances, the late Vice Chancellor, who appears to me to have rather wished well to the Institution in the main, permitted himself

himself to be directed by the Counsels of a Person, who has always manifested an hostile disposition to the proposed Establishment, and whose conduct in the Committee forbids us to suppose, that he would ever have permitted the preceding Grace to have passed the Caput, unless he had been convinced, that it contained in itself the seeds of its own inevitable destruction.

If then, according to the tenor of the Grace, the Consent of an absolute Majority of the Committee, with the Vice Chancellor among the number, be required, in order to give validity to a Resolution, a second Informality discloses itself in the Proceedings of the 21st of October. The Votes of the Assembly should not have been taken by secret Scrutiny, which all the Gentlemen present, with whom I have conversed upon the subject, acknowledge was the fact. Doubts may arise in the breasts of every Member of the Senate, whether the Vice Chancellor was in the Majority; a circumstance which should certainly appear to have been the case, when the Report is made to the Chancellor and to the Senate.

Upon Inspection into the Grace, it also will appear reasonable to suppose, that the Opinion of the Committee, upon a subject of such consequence, would have been delivered with circumstances of greater Solemnity; and its Act have been recorded in writing, and signed by the Chairman of the Assembly. Nor will it avail the Opponents of the measure to plead,
that

that such formality was only required in case a Plan had been drawn up for the Execution. The words *in scripta digestum referant*, expressly point to whatever might happen to become the subject of deliberation. And although such conclusion were not to be inferred from the positive terms of the Grace, yet respect to the Authority, which gave the Commission, rendered such Procedure in this Instance indispensable; for, most surely, the Senate has a claim to the amplest information with respect to the Reasons that inclined its Committee to declare a Measure impracticable, which was known to have been esteemed not only practicable, but expedient, nay even necessary, in the Judgment of a very large proportion of its Members.

I would draw the following Conclusions from the preceding observations, viz.

That the Members of the Committee, who in obedience to the Summons of the Vice Chancellor, met upon the 21st of October, and determined the Question of the practicability of Annual Examinations in the negative, have not acted, in some essential points, conformably to the Grace from which they derived their Authority; and, that the Resolution of the Majority on that day, has no greater degree of validity than the Resolutions of the Majority of the Members of any private Society, when that Majority amounts not to the precise number expressed in their Statutes.

I shall lastly observe, that if the fourteen Gentlemen,

men, who voted against the practicability of the Institution upon the 21st of October, should hereafter endeavour to obtain the concurrence of five more of their Brethren, in order to form a Majority of the Committee, such measure must be looked upon as exceptionable, unless the whole matter be again debated at a subsequent Meeting. The terms of the Grace are express with respect to this point also. *Convocante Domino Procancelario convenient, COLLATISQUE INTER SE CONSILIIS deliberent, et dijudicent, &c.*—Words which plainly imply that no Resolution can be valid, unless the subject matter of it be openly discussed, and the Question finally decided, by the Members of the Committee, during the time of their statutable Assembly.

Thus, unconscious of an intention to misrepresent the conduct of any Gentlemen concerned, I have continued my Narrative to the present Hour; and have unfolded the most material Circumstances attending the proposal of an Institution, which has long appeared to me most likely to restore our Credit with the Public. An Institution, which after many ineffectual Remonstrances of a more private nature, I was at length induced to propose to our Senate, upon the Encouragement of many Persons, whose Characters I reverence, and whose Opinions, in whatever relates to the Improvement of Literature, and the Honour of our University, I think it Wisdom to respect. My attempts have not hitherto been attended with success—yet the Judgement I have formed of the Importance

portance of the Cause, and the Confidence, derived from the Expectation that I shall be supported by the Voice of an approving Public, forbid me to despond. And if at last, after the Exertion of every manly Effort, overborn by the weight of Prejudice, and circumvented in my Endeavours to obtain a fair and candid decision of my Question, I should be obliged to desist, I shall not remain altogether without my Consolation; as, exclusively of the Satisfaction derived from the approbation of the Friends of Learning and Religion, I shall retire with the persuasion, that, in consequence of my struggles, the task of Academical Reformation will be rendered more easy to those who shall hereafter be disposed to undertake it; and shall therefore have laid in a Fund of pleasing Reflections, more than sufficient to compensate for the Anxieties, and ill treatment, which I have experienced in the prosecution of my Design.

Cambridge, Nov. the 4th, 1773.

portance of the Cause, and the Confidence, derived
from the Expectation that I shall be supported by the
Voices of an approving Public, for all me to depend.
And it is at last, after the fixation of every many El-
ement, overborne by the weight of Evidence, and the
concurrent opinion of my Friends, to give a fair and
impartial decision of my Question, I should be obliged
to do this, I shall not remain altogether without my
Confidence, as a necessity of the Satisfaction derive
ed from the approbation of the Friends of Learning
and Religion, I shall retire with the persuasion that
in consequence of my struggles, the task of a lifetime
contribution will be rendered more easy to those
who shall hereafter be disposed to undertake it; and
shall therefore have left in a Fund of pleasing Recol-
lection, more than sufficient to make for the Anti-
slavery Cause, and in testimony which I have experienced in
the prosecution of my Design.

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Cambridge, Nov. 10th, 1773. I am, my Friends,
Dear Sir, ever your Obedient Servant,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

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